

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS TO MILITARY AND OVERSEAS VOTERS FOR CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS

The Louisiana Legislature has changed the way we elect our members of Congress, both the U. S. Senators and the U. S. Representatives. We now have a closed-party primary system, with a 1st party primary, and a 2nd party primary runoff election if necessary. The congressional general election has not changed and is open to all voters, regardless of party affiliation.

Congressional 1st and 2nd Party Primary Elections:

If you are registered with a recognized political party that has a candidate in the Congressional 1st Party Primary: (Recognized political parties: Democratic, Republican, Green, Libertarian, and Reform)

- If there are only two candidates in the congressional 1st party primary election for your party, you will receive two ballots and two envelopes. ([Congressional 1st Party Primary](#) and [Congressional General](#))
- If there are more than two candidates in the congressional 1st party primary election for your party, you will receive three ballots and three envelopes. ([Congressional 1st Party Primary](#), [Congressional 2nd Party Primary](#), and [Congressional General](#))
- The ballot for the [Congressional 1st Party Primary](#) will be an optical scan ballot; follow the instructions on the ballot to vote.
- The ballot(s) for the [Congressional 2nd Party Primary](#) and [Congressional General](#) elections will be write-in ballots; follow the instructions on the ballots to vote.

If you are registered with a non-recognized political party or with no party affiliation at all:

- You will receive a ballot for the congressional 1st party primary election with all candidates of the recognized political parties who have not prohibited unaffiliated voters from participating in their primaries.
- You may vote for only **ONE** candidate, regardless of party; if you vote for more than one candidate, your ballot will be rejected.
- You will receive three ballots and three envelopes. ([Congressional 1st Party Primary](#), [Congressional 2nd Party Primary](#), and [Congressional General](#))
- The ballot for the [Congressional 1st Party Primary](#) will be an optical scan ballot; follow the instructions on the ballot to vote.
- The ballot(s) for the [Congressional 2nd Party Primary](#) and [Congressional General](#) elections will be write-in ballots; follow the instructions on the ballots to vote.

Congressional General Election:

In the [Congressional General](#) election, any registered voter can vote for any candidate, regardless of political party. Your write-in ballot for the [Congressional General](#) election will contain the names of all congressional candidates. You may vote for only **ONE** candidate on the ballot; if you vote for more than one candidate, your ballot will be rejected.

How to vote the ballots you received:

1. Fill in **all** information required in the certificate on each ballot envelope flap.
2. DO NOT SIGN CERTIFICATE AT THIS TIME.
3. Follow instructions on the ballot to vote your ballot.
4. Insert the ballots into the matching-color ballot envelopes as follows:
 - White [Congressional 1st Party Primary](#) election optical-scan ballot goes in the ballot envelope with the [blue box](#).
 - Gray [Congressional 2nd Party Primary](#) write-in election ballot goes in the ballot envelope with the [gray box](#).
 - [Pink Congressional General](#) write-in election ballot goes in the ballot envelope with the [pink box](#).
5. DO NOT DETACH FLAP.
6. **Sign the certificate on the flap in the presence of a notary public OR in the presence of two witnesses, who must also sign the certificate.**
7. After you have placed your voted congressional ballots in the correct ballot envelopes, place the ballot envelopes in the return envelope that is addressed to your parish Registrar of Voters. Add postage, if necessary, and deposit it in the mail.

INSTRUCTIONS TO REGISTRARS OF VOTERS: Enclose these instructions, **in addition to** the "Instructions for Absentee Voting – By Mail" (V-AB-M), with Congressional and/or Presidential election ballot(s) mailed to military personnel anywhere, and to overseas voters.